(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is the number of flights to be stopped or merged or their frequency reduced; and

(c) whether the outgoing Board of Indian Airlines has taken any decision in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The outgoing Board of Indian Airlines had desired that the utilisation of aircraft should be kept to the optimum level on account of shorter legs to avoid delays and disruptions. With a view to maintain the existing services and in public interest, there is no proposal at present, to reduce the utilisation of B-737 aircraft as reduction in utilisation would result in cancellation of some flights.

Review of the contract to purchase Airbus-320

177. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose to review the contract to purchase 19 Airbus (A-320), if a technical snags is found responsible for the crashing of this type of aircraft into trees at per this year, airshow in France on June 26, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) whether Indian Airlines have requested Air France to provide it with monthly performance reports of its Airbus A-320 fleet, if so, whether it has received any such report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) One of the Airbus A-320 aircraft fitted with CFM-56 engine of Air France crashed into the trees in France on the 26th June, 1988 while on a demonstration flight. The aircraft was totally destroyed. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the accident was due to human error and the aircraft system and engines were performing satisfactorily at the time of the accident. Airbus A-320 aircraft being acquired by Indian Airlines will be fitted with V-2500 engine, manufactured by International Aero Engines. This engine has been type-certified by Federal Aviation Administration of USA after successful completion of all the tests. In view of this, at present, there is no proposal to review the contract for purchase of Airbus A-320 aircraft by Indian Airlines.

(b) Air France commenced commercial operation with Airbus A-320 aircraft in April, 1988. The technical data of the performance of the fleet of all operators is compiled by M/s. Airbus Industries, the manufacturers of Airbus A-320 and supplied to the operators. Since Airbus A-320 aircraft has entered commercial operations only recently, no report has been received as yet.

Helicopter Crash near Vaishnodevi Complex

178. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the crash of the Pawan Hans helicopter near Vaishnodevi Complex on July 14, 1988; and